

Remarks

Claims 15-26 were previously pending and new claims 27-32 have been added; therefore, claims 15-32 are currently pending. Claims 15, 19, and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the claim amendments or the new claims. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 19-21. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the remaining the currently pending claims in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 19-21 stand allowed. New claims 27-29 depend from and further limit independent claim 19 and are therefore also deemed to be allowable. Claim 19 is amended herein to remove the word "module" and to replace it with the word "means".

Claim Objections

Claim 23 stands objected to because of certain informalities. In response, Applicants submit that claim 15 has been amended in such a manner as to provide antecedent basis for "the queuing factor module" as recited in claim 23, thereby rendering the subject objection moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 15-18 and 22-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,449,356 to Dezonno (hereinafter "Dezonno") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,364 to Shaffer et al. (hereinafter "Shaffer").

In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to include limitations similar to those of independent claim 19; therefore, claim 15 is now allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 19 has been deemed allowable. Claims 16-18 and 22-26 depend from and further limit claim 15 and are therefore also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

New Claims

New claims 27-29 depend from and further limit independent claim 19, which has been allowed; therefore, those claims are also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

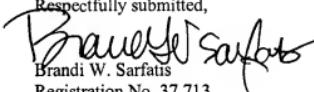
New independent claim 30 contains limitations similar to those of independent claim 19, which has been allowed; therefore, claim 30 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 19 has been deemed allowable. Claims 31-32 depend from and further limit claim 30 and are therefore also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent that independent claims 15, 19, and 30 are in condition for allowance. Claims 16-18, 20-29, and 31-32 depend from and further limit claims 15, 19, and 30 and are therefore also deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early formal notice of allowance of claims 15-32 is requested.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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